

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PRS-01 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1010
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4104

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG KU PFOR

SUBJ: MEETING WITH KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER

1. DEPT ASST SECRETARY SOBER AND AMBASSADOR HAD CORDIAL, RELAXED EVENING MEETING WITH CP/PM SHAIKH JABIR AL-AHMAD SEPT 22. SOBER COMMENCED BY DESCRIBING PURPOSE OF HIS TOUR OF AREA COUNTRIES AS PRIMARILY SELF-EDUCATION AND ORIENTATION. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY DESIRE HE HAD HEARD REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IN GULF FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US AND FOR INCREASING COOPERATION WITH US IN ALL FIELDS. SOBER TOLD CP/PM THAT US FULLY RECIPROCATED THIS DESIRE; AND IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF KUWAIT AS WELL, US WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY RESPOND TO KUWAITI SUGGESTIONS FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, DEFENSE AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS.

2. SOBER STRESSED CONTINUING ALL-OUT US EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARD MIDEAST SETTLEMENT. CHANGE-OVER TO FORD ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID, HAD BROUGHT NO DIMINUTION WHATEVER IN US DETERMINATION
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TO HELP FIND PERMANENT PEACE. CP/PM WARMLY ACKNOWLEDGED US

EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE IN AREA AND REAFFIRMED STRONG GOK DESIRE FOR CLOSER US-KUWAITI RELATIONS IN ALL FIELDS.

3. SOBER EMPHASIZED US CONCERN AT OIL PRICE LEVELS THAT CLEARLY HELD OUT PROSPECT OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD. HE ADDED THE EFFECTS COULD BE GRAVE NOT ONLY FOR POORER, LESS-DEVELOPED CONSUMER NATIONS BUT ALSO FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. STATESMANLIKE VIEW OF THIS PROBLEM AS ISSUE OF WORLD-WIDE SIGNIFICANCE WAS NEEDED. CP/PM REPLIED KUWAIT PREPARED DISCUSS WORLD INFLATION WITH ADVANCED COUNTRIES; BUT PROBLEM MUST BE LOOKED AT AS A WHOLE, NOT JUST ARAB OIL. SOBER POINTED OUT US CLEARLY LOOKED AT OIL PRICING AS ISSUE WHICH CONCERNED NON-ARAB AS WELL AS ARAB PRODUCERS.

4. CP/PM REAFFIRMED INTEREST IN JOINT US-KUWAITI ECONOMIC PROJECTS. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED TO HEAR OF POSITIVE US RESPONSES NOW BEING WORKED OUT ON KUWAITI DEFENSE REQUESTS.

5. SOBER OUTLINED REASONS WHY US UNABLE RESPOND POSITVELY TO KUWAIT INTEREST IN NUCLEAR ENERGY. CP/PM EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING BUT REGRET AS WELL. HE SAID KUWAIT COULD OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD FROM FRENCH BUT WOULD FAR RATHER GO US ROUTE. IN ANY EVENT, HE ADDED, KUWAIT WAS LOOKING TOWARD EVENTUAL GREATER USE OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY BECAUSE IT WANTED PRESERVE ITS OIL RESERVES FOR PETROCHEMICALS AND OTHER PRODUCTS WHICH BROUGHT HIGHER RETURN THAN USE AS FUEL.

6. CP/PM SAID THAT CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, HE WOULD NOT BE VISITING SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF STATES UNTIL AFTER LATE OCTOBER ARAB SUMMIT MEETING.
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